UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY AT PADUCAH

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

 \mathbf{v} .

PLAINTIFF

CIVIL ACTION NO: 5:19-cv-93-TBR

CONTENTS OF REGIONS BANK ACCOUNT ENDING IN 4528 (\$91,831.49), HELD IN THE NAME OF NOAH OLUMIDE OLANREWAJU.

DEFENDANT

VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE IN REM

The United States of America, by counsel, Russell M. Coleman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Amy M. Sullivan, Assistant United States Attorney, brings this complaint and alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is an action to forfeit and condemn to the use and benefit of the United States of America the following property: Contents of Regions Bank Account Ending in 4528 (91,831.49), held in the name of Noah Olumide Olanrewaju.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. Plaintiff brings this action in rem in its own right to forfeit and condemn the defendant property under 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C). This Court has jurisdiction over forfeiture actions commenced by the United States pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1345 and 28 U.S.C. § 1355(a).
- 3. This Court has *in rem* jurisdiction over the defendant property under 28 U.S.C. § 1355(b). Upon the filing of this complaint, the plaintiff requests that the Court issue an arrest warrant *in rem* pursuant to Supplemental Rule G(3)(b), which the plaintiff will execute upon the property pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1355(d) and Supplemental Rule G(3)(c).

4. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1355 and 1395, because the acts or omissions giving rise to the forfeiture occurred in the Western District of Kentucky.

THE DEFENDANT IN REM

5. The defendant is: Contents of Regions Bank Account Ending in 4528 (\$91,831.49), held in the Name of Noah Olumide Olanrewaju, which the McCracken County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) seized on or about August 21, 2018, from Noah Olumide Olanrewaju in Paducah, Kentucky, which is in the Western District of Kentucky. The defendant property is currently in the custody of the McCracken County Sheriff's Office.

THE LAW

- 6. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C), "[a]ny property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to a violation of . . . any offense constituting a 'specified unlawful activity' (as defined in section 1343 of this title), or a conspiracy to commit such offense" is subject to forfeiture to the United States.
- 7. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1343, it is unlawful to devise or intend "to devise any scheme or artifice to defraud, or for obtaining money or property by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises, transmits or causes to be transmitted by means of wire, radio, or television communication in interstate or foreign commerce, any writings, signs, signals, pictures, or sounds for the purpose of executing such scheme or artifice ...".

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT FACTS

8. The facts and circumstances supporting the seizure and forfeiture of the defendant property are set forth in the affidavit of HSI Special Agent Todd D. Chiddister, which is attached hereto as Attachment A, and incorporated in its entirety herein by reference.

CLAIM FOR RELIEF

9. The defendant property constitutes property traceable directly and indirectly to proceeds of mail and wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343. Consequently, the defendant property is forfeitable to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C).

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff respectfully requests:

- 1. that notice of this action be given to all persons known or thought to have an interest in or right against the property;
- 2. that the defendant property be forfeited and condemned to the United States of America;
- 3. that the plaintiff be awarded its costs and disbursements in this action; and
- 4. for such other and further relief as this court deems proper and just.

Respectfully submitted,

RUSSELL M. COLEMAN United States Attorney

/s Amy M. Sulivan
AMY M. SULLIVAN
Assistant U.S. Attorney
Western District of Kentucky
717 West Broadway
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 582-5911
(502) 582-5097 (fax)
amy.sullivan@usdoj.gov

VERIFICATION

I, Todd D. Chiddister, am a Special Agent with Homeland Security Investigations. I have read the foregoing Verified Complaint for Forfeiture *In Rem* (including any attachments thereto) and under penalty of perjury, hereby assert that the facts contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief, based upon knowledge possessed by me and/or on information received from other law enforcement agents.

SA Todd D. Chiddister

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of June, 2019.

Madison Sewell Notary Public

Notary I.D.:

My Commission Expires 12/5/20

569 567

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE

- I, Todd D. Chiddister, being duly sworn, state as follows:
- I am a Special Agent with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) assigned to Bowling
 Green, Kentucky. I have been employed as a Special Agent with HSI and legacy agency
 U.S. Customs for over 16 years.
 - 2. As part of my duties as an HSI agent, I may be assigned investigations relating to wire fraud and money laundering. I have participated in the execution of multiple federal search warrants involving suspected money laundering offenses.
- 3. This affidavit is made in support of an application for a Complaint for Forfeiture against a Regions Bank checking account number ending 4528 (as fully described herein), which represents proceeds involved in wire fraud. Consequently, the defendant property is forfeitable to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Sec. 981(a)(1)(C).
- 4. The statements in this affidavit are based on my personal knowledge, and on information I have received from other law enforcement personnel with knowledge regarding relevant facts. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of supporting a forfeiture complaint, I have not included each fact known to me concerning this investigation. I have set forth only those facts that I believe are necessary to establish probable cause to believe that violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, occurred and that the defendant property was involved in said violation.

PROBABLE CAUSE

5. On August 2, 2018, J.M. of Paducah, KY began communicating via Facebook Messenger with "kathy.bullen.7." Bullen identified herself as a grant specialist to J.M.. Bullen told J.M. that she provides government grants to individuals. Since these are grants, they do

- not have to be repaid. In order to receive a grant, J.M. would have to apply and hope for approval. J.M. "applied" for the grant through Messenger by providing her personal information to Bullen. Bullen in return "approved" J.M. to receive a grant.
- 6. The size of the grant that J.M. could receive was dependent on how much J.M. paid for processing and handling. The larger the processing and handling fee, the larger the grant J.M. would receive. J.M. elected to pay a \$2,850 processing and handling fee in order to receive a \$90,000 grant.
- 7. J.M., on August 6, 2018 started making the following payments to Bullen, believing she was paying the processing and handling fee to receive the \$90,000 grant. J.M. purchased 4 Walmart gift cards totaling \$2,850 then sent photos of the receipt and gift cards to Bullen through Messenger.
- 8. Bullen continued to scam J.M. over the next few days, eventually convincing J.M. to send additional money. On August 8, 2018 J.M. deposited \$2,500 into the Regions Bank account ending 4528. The account information was provided to J.M. by Bullen. This deposit was to pay for the "taxes" associated with the grant. J.M. also sends an additional \$2,000 via 4 Walmart gift to Bullen on the 8th. These were sent to Bullen via photos sent through Messenger.
- 9. After having sent a combined \$7,350 and Bullen demanding additional shipping and insurance fees be paid before the grant check can be mailed, J.M. began to realize she had fell victim to a scam and on August 9, 2018, J.M. contacted the McCracken County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) to report it.
- 10. MCSO Captain Ryan Norman and Sergeant Benny Kauffman immediately identified and recognized that J.M. had fell victim to a scam. MCSO Detectives were able to recognize

- this case as a scam based on both having participated in numerous investigations and complaints of a similar nature.
- 11. Recognizing that the bank account number ending 4528 with Regions Bank was involved in the receiving of monies obtained through fraudulent means a seizure warrant was obtained. On August 21, 2018, Sgt. Kauffman executed a state seizure warrant on the Regions Bank account ending 4528. MCSO seized the account balance of \$91,831.49.

 This amount was turned over into the custody of MCSO on September 5, 2018 by Regions Bank.
- The seized account was identified as belonging to Noah Olumide Olanrewaju of Smyrna,
 GA.
- 13. Olanrewaju was interviewed several times via phone and made the following statements.
 - The \$2,500 that was deposited into his bank account was done so because he
 works for his brother in-law, "Tobi."
 - Tobi is a wholesaler of new and used iPhones in Nigeria. Tobi further works with "Ola". It is unknown what Ola does in Nigeria.
 - Tobi provides Ola with Naira (Nigerian currency). In exchange for the Nigerian currency, Ola has his people deposit USD (American currency) into Olanrewaju's bank account.
 - Olanrewaju then sends the money he receives into his account from Ola to SVAG
 Enterprises. SVAG Enterprises is an iPhone wholesaler.
 - SVAG Enterprises then provides Tobi with new and used iPhones in Nigeria.

- Upon receiving money into his account, Olanrewaju receives instructions via text
 message on where to send money. Some money is sent to SVAG but if there is an
 excess, he receives instructions on where to send the excess.
- Ola provides Tobi a better Naira to USD exchange rate then what is set by the Federal Exchange.
- 14. The following deposits and debits were identified as being involved in fraud/scams.
 These were identified as being received into the account by the people that work for Ola.
 - Deposit June 25, 2018 Square Inc. \$4,500. Olanrewaju detailed this money was received from the people that work for Ola.
 - Deposit July 12, 2018- Wire transfer from SVAG into account \$7,596. Described as being overpayment for previous payments made to SVAG.
 - Deposit August 7, 2018- Cashier's check \$75,000. Employees of Ola deposited this money.
 - Deposit August 8, 2018- cash deposit \$2,500. The J.M. deposit.
- 15. No additional information was able to be generated with respect to the Square Inc. and SVAG deposits. I was unable to determine the origin of the funds other than coming from SVAG and Square Inc. These two deposits are considered fraudulent due to Olanrewaju's statements.
- The \$75,000 cashier's check was found to have been deposited by J.B., from Boerne, TX.J.B. was interviewed via phone and made the following statements:
 - Met a man on a seniors dating website

- The man had asked her if he deposits money into her account if she would withdraw the money as a cashier's check and deposit the check into the account belonging to Olanrewaju.
- Agreed to do so. Also admitted to destroying all documents related to the cashier's check. Did this under the instruction of the male she had met on the dating website.
- Didn't use any of her own money, only withdrawing the exact amount the man had deposited into her account.
- 17. J.B. provided Sgt. Kauffman with her daughter's phone number. J.B.'s daughter was able to provide additional details in regards to her mother's involvement with this scheme to defraud.
 - Her mother being asked to participate in the moving of money is an ongoing issue since February of 2018.
 - Noticed \$140,000 wire transfer into the joint checking account she shares with
 J.B. in February 2018. The money was all wired back out with a day. Was able to recover \$135,000 by working with the bank.
 - Confronted her mother about it at that time. J.B. had explained to her at that time that she had met a guy online and was helping him out.
 - Made it clear to J.B. that she was helping to move money as part of scam.
 Instructed her mother to quit communicating with this man.
 - Thought the problem had come to an end until she heard about the \$75,000 check.

- Confronted her mother again, found out that J.B. had continued to communicate
 with the man via the dating site. J.B. had opened 3 additional accounts. The one in
 question is with Wells Fargo Bank.
- Had opened the accounts under the instruction of the man she was talking to online.
- J.B. had fallen in love with this guy and had believed everything he had told her.
 All the different reasons as to why J.B. needed to set up accounts and move money for him.
- 18. Olanrewaju provided screen shots of the text message conversations he had with the employees of Ola. The messages conveyed the following in essence:
 - First ensured Olanrewaju's account could receive \$50,000 in cashier's checks.
 Olanrewaju confirms his account could receive that amount.
 - Receives specific wire transfer instructions on how and where to send the \$77,500 deposited into his account on August 7-8, 2018.
 - Instructs Olanrewaju to wire transfer \$7,500 to Diamond LLC via Citi bank.
 Further instructs Olanrewaju that the remaining \$70,000 was for his brother.
- 19. Through investigation Diamond LLC was determined to be a bank in Nigeria.

 Additionally the IP address that was used to login to the "kathy.bullen.7" Facebook account was also registered to Nigeria. The investigation has shown that the bulk of the parties involved are unknown individuals and entities based in Nigeria, which is a known hotbed for fraudulent schemes and scams.

20. Based on the investigation, there is probable cause to believe that the contents of the account (\$91,831.49) belonging to Noah Olanrewaju contained monies that were obtained by wire fraud.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above information, there is probable cause to believe that a scheme to defraud, and financial transactions in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 has occurred, and that the defendant property represents proceeds traceable to wire fraud.

Consequently, the defendant property is forfeitable to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 981(a)(1)(C).

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Todd D. Chiddister

Special Agent

Homeland Security Investigations

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY AT PADUCAH

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PLAINTIFF

V.

CASE ACTION NO: 5:19-cv-93-TBR

Electronically filed

CONTENTS OF REGIONS BANK ACCOUNT ENDING IN 4528 (\$91,831.49), HELD IN THE NAME OF NOAH OLUMIDE OLANREWAJU

WARRANT OF ARREST IN REM AND NOTICE

TO: THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE AND/OR ANY OTHER DULY AUTHORIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

WHEREAS the United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky has filed a Verified Complaint for Forfeiture *In Rem* against the above-named defendant property on the 2nd day of July, 2019, alleging that the defendant property is subject to seizure and forfeiture to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C).

And, the Court being satisfied that, based on the Verified Complaint for Forfeiture *In Rem*, there is probable cause to believe that the defendant property so described therein constitutes property that is subject to forfeiture for such violations, and that grounds for issuance of a Warrant of Arrest *In Rem* exist, pursuant to Supplemental Rule G(3) of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions ("Supplemental Rules");

YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED to seize and arrest the defendant property, by serving a copy of this warrant on the custodian, McCracken County Sheriff's Office, in whose possession, custody, or control the property is presently found and to take the defendant property

into your possession for safe custody, until further order of the Court; and to make your return as provided by law.

YOU ARE FURTHER ORDERED to send notice to the record owner and any other person believed to have a claim to or interest in the defendant property a copy of the Complaint, Notice of Forfeiture, and this Warrant in a manner consistent with the principles of service of process of any action *in rem* under the Supplemental Rules and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, within a reasonable time of seizure, and, to admonish any persons holding a claim to the defendant property to file their claims with the Clerk of this Court within thirty-five (35) days after execution of this process, and to serve their answers within twenty-one (21) days after filing their claims, and finally, that they must serve a copy of any claim and/or pleading upon the Assistant United States Attorney, Amy M. Sullivan, 717 West Broadway, Louisville, Kentucky 40202.

YOU ARE FURTHER ORDERED, in the event that the defendant property is not released within ten (10) days of execution of process, that you shall cause publication of public notice, as required by Rule G(4) of the Supplemental Rules. Such notice shall be published for thirty days at www.forfeiture.gov. This notice shall state that anyone claiming an interest in the defendant property must file: 1) a claim within sixty (60) days from the start of the publication on the internet at www.forfeiture.gov; and 2) an answer within twenty-one (21) days after filing a claim.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, promptly after execution of this process, you shall file the same in this Court with your return thereon, identifying the individuals upon whom copies were served and the manner employed. Tendered by:
Amy M. Sullivan
Assistant United States Attorney
717 West Broadway
Louisville, KY 40202
(502)582-5911
(502)582-5097(fax)
amy.sullivan@usdoj.gov

cc: United States Attorney (AMS) - two certified copies of order and two certified copies of the Verified Complaint

SJS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANTS	DEFENDANTS		
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA			CONTENTS OF REGIONS BANK ACCOUNT ENDING IN 4528 (\$91,831.49) HELD IN THE NAME OF NOAH OLUMIDE OLANREWAJU		
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff		İ	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant		
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)		
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)		NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED. Attorneys(If Known)			
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION			·	
II. DASIS OF JUKISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF P (For Diversity Cases Only)	'RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)	
U.S. Government Plaintiff	☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	P	TF DEF 1 Incorporated or Prior of Business In This	PTF DEF incipal Place ☐ 4 ☐ 4	
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2		
		Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 Greign Nation	6 6 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT					
CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment ☐ 151 Medicare Act ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Vetetans) ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits ☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane Product Liability 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice Slander 368 Asbestos Personal Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Liability 369 Marine Product Liability 369 Marine Product Liability 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 350 Motor Vehicle 370 Other Personal And Marine Product Liability 371 Truth in Lending 355 Motor Vehicle 370 Other Personal And Other Personal 371 Truth in Lending 360 Other Personal 371 Truth in Lending 360 Other Personal 371 Truth in Lending 375 Motor Vehicle 385 Property Damage Product Liability 385 Property Damage Product Liability 385 Property Damage Product Liability 510 Motions to Vacat Sentence Habeas Corpus: 530 General 535 Death Penalty 540 Mandamus & Other Personal 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 555 Prison 555 Pri	620 Other Food & Drug 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 630 Liquor Laws 640 R.R. & Truck 650 Airline Regs. 660 Occupational Safety/Health 690 Other 710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act 740 Railway Labor Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 810 Selective Service 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 890 Other Stantory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 892 Economic Stabilization Act 893 Environmental Matters 894 Energy Allocation Act 895 Freedom of Information Act 900Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
V. ORIGIN Original Proceeding					
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION 18.U.S.C. 981(a)(1)(C) Brief description of cause: Wire Fraud					
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	N DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:	
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	(See instructions): JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR OFFICE USE ONLY					
	MOUNT APPLYING IFP	NDGE	MAG. JUD	OGE	